



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5787

February Session, 2000

An Act Establishing A State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) There shall be within the Division of State
2 Police, within the Department of Public Safety, a state-wide firearms
3 trafficking task force for the effective cooperative enforcement of the
4 laws of this state concerning the distribution and possession of
5 firearms.

6 (b) The task force shall be comprised of municipal and state law
7 enforcement officers and may include federal law enforcement officers.
8 Such task force shall be authorized to conduct any investigation
9 authorized by this section at any place within the state as may be
10 deemed necessary.

11 (c) The task force may request and may receive from any federal,
12 state or local agency, cooperation and assistance in the performance of
13 its duties, including the temporary assignment of personnel which
14 may be necessary to carry out the performance of its functions.

15 (d) The task force may enter into mutual assistance and cooperation
16 agreements with other states pertaining to firearms law enforcement
17 matters extending across state boundaries, and may consult and
18 exchange information and personnel with agencies of other states with

19 reference to firearms law enforcement problems of mutual concern.

20 (e) The Commissioner of Public Safety may appoint a commanding
21 officer and such other personnel as the commissioner deems necessary
22 for the duties of the task force, within available appropriations.

23 (f) The task force shall: (1) Review the problem of illegal trafficking
24 in firearms and its effects, including its effects on the public, and
25 implement solutions to address the problem; (2) identify persons
26 illegally trafficking in firearms and focus resources to prosecute such
27 persons; (3) track firearms which were sold or distributed illegally and
28 implement solutions to remove such firearms from persons illegally in
29 possession of them; and (4) coordinate its activities with other law
30 enforcement agencies within and without the state.

31 Sec. 2. (a) There shall be a State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task
32 Force Policy Board within the Division of State Police, within the
33 Department of Public Safety, for administrative purposes only,
34 consisting of the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Chief State's
35 Attorney, the agent in Connecticut in charge of the federal Bureau of
36 Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the president of the Connecticut Police
37 Chiefs Association and five chiefs of police designated by said
38 association, each to serve for a term of one year, provided one such
39 chief of police shall be from a municipality with a population of one
40 hundred thousand or more.

41 (b) The policy board shall direct the formulation of policies and
42 operating procedures of the task force.

43 (c) The policy board may apply for and administer any federal,
44 state, local or private appropriations or grant funds made available for
45 the operation of the task force.

46 (d) The receipts from the sale of seized firearms pursuant to section
47 54-36e of the general statutes shall be deposited in the General Fund
48 and credited to a separate, nonlapsing forfeit firearms account which
49 shall be established by the Comptroller. All moneys in the account are

50 deemed to be appropriated and shall be expended for the purposes
51 established in section 1 of this act.

52 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 54-36e of the general statutes is
53 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

54 (b) Firearms turned over to the state police pursuant to subsection
55 (a) of this section which are not destroyed or retained for appropriate
56 use shall be sold at public auctions, conducted by the Commissioner of
57 Administrative Services or [his] such commissioner's designee. Pistols
58 and revolvers, as defined in section 53a-3, which are antiques, as
59 defined in section 29-33, or curios or relics, as defined in the Code of
60 Federal Regulations, Title 27, Chapter 1, Part 178, or modern pistols
61 and revolvers which have a current retail value of one hundred dollars
62 or more may be sold at such public auctions, provided such pistols and
63 revolvers shall be sold only to persons who have a valid permit to sell
64 a pistol or revolver, or a valid permit to carry a pistol or revolver,
65 issued pursuant to section 29-28. Rifles and shotguns, as defined in
66 section 53a-3, shall be sold only to persons qualified under federal law
67 to purchase such rifles and shotguns. The proceeds of any such sale
68 shall be paid to the State Treasurer and [by him] deposited by the State
69 Treasurer in the forfeit firearms account within the General Fund.

70 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

PS	Committee Vote:	Yea	22	Nay	0	JFS	C/R	APP
APP	Committee Vote:	Yea	50	Nay	0	JFS		
GAE	Committee Vote:	Yea	22	Nay	0	JF		
LM	Committee Vote:	Yea	22	Nay	5	JF		